



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Human Rights Commission Minutes 08/20/2003**

**Arlington Human Rights Commission**  
 Minutes, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2003

### **Commissioner Present**

Kevin McGann  
 James Webster  
 Nick Minton  
 Sheri Baron  
 Bill Shea  
 Nancy Sweeney  
 Christine Deshler  
 Christine Carney  
 Nancy Rhodes

### **Absent**

Marlissa Briggett  
 Kim Lam  
 Cecilia Akuffo  
 Sue McHugh

The regular monthly meeting of the Arlington Human Rights Commission was called to order at 8:10PM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Community Safety Building, 121 Mystic Street, Arlington.

A motion was made to accept the July, 2003 minutes with changes; the motion was seconded and passed.

### **Incidents and Complaints**

- A) It was reported by the chair that the home of an Arlington resident was vandalized on July 21, 2003. The neighbors were able to identify to the police the persons thought to be responsible for the vandalism. The persons were questioned by the police and apologized to the victim of the vandalism. At this time the victim does not want to pursue this further with the Commission.
- B) It was reported by the chair that a church received an obscene telephone call.
- C) It was reported by the chair that the Commission was approached by a friend of a Winslow Tower resident and wanted to report to the commission that they believe the resident was unfairly evicted by the Arlington Housing Authority and was not treated fairly by the AHA because of the resident's disability. A complaint form was given to the friend of the resident and an e-mail was sent to the potential complainant.
- D) It was reported by the chair that a resident of 17 Mill Street called to complain that a neighbor was harassing her. After a discussion with the woman it was determined that woman was not being harassed, but merely being bothered by a person with whom she did not want to continue a friendship. The woman was referred back to Human Services for resolution.
- E) The Commission received a call from an Arlington resident who stated that he has a problem that he would like to bring before the commission, but he would not go into further detail of the problem over the telephone. He was informed that he could attend a meeting and be put on the agenda, but that he would have to state his actual business in order to be put on the agenda, and if he would not do so he could just come to meeting and if time allowed the commission might be able to hear him. He stated that he would come to the August, 2003 meeting. Bill Shea and Jim Webster have agreed to meet with this person in a public place such, as the library should the man desire to do so.

### **Town Day**

Town Day will be held on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The commission has a booth space. The following people have volunteered to work the booth:

8-10 Sheri, Christine C. and Bill Shea  
10-12 Jim and Kevin McGann  
12-2 Nancy Rhodes and Nancy Sweeney  
2-3

Bill Shea moved that the Town Day Subcommittee spend up to \$250.00 for an item to be raffled at Town Day. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **Fundraising**

No report was given except that no progress has been made in finding a grant source. At the September meeting the fundraising "card" project will be discussed. Any commissioners who have been successful in getting a business to commit to participating in this fundraising effort should report to Marlissa.

### **New Business**

Nancy Rhodes will contact the ADL for information on the No Place For Hate campaign and how Arlington can be involved.

The Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group is organizing October Diversity Month and the Commission has been invited to be part of the planning.

The group, Belmont Against Racism, is in the process of trying to establish a Human Rights Commission in Belmont and has invited Kevin to be part of a panel discussion on November 12, 2003.

In response to Incident and Complaint (E) it was discussed how the commission should handle public participation at the meetings. Concern for safety and control of the meeting were two of the major concerns of the commission. Nick Minton moved that the commission include in each agenda a public participation segment at the start of the meeting and that is to be no longer than 15 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed with one commissioner opposed.

The September meeting will meet in the conference room of the Community Safety Building unless the room is booked. If the room is booked the meeting will be held at the usual meeting space, Jefferson Cutter House.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine C. Carney